

THE PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN
Philadelphia, Pa.
9 June 1968

Puzzle and Lesson

Master Spy's Massive Betrayal

THE PHILBY CONSPIRACY. By Bruce Page, David Leitch and Phillip Knightley. Doubleday & Co., 300 pp. \$5.95.

By PATRICIA DAVIS

Kim Philby was the master spy, unbelievable in the pages of fiction but tragically true in life. The authors of this book, an attempt to explain his complex personality and his monumental deception, admit the real story of Kim Philby may never be told. Until the Soviet, British and American governments open secret records or when and if Philby himself explains his career as a successful double agent for 30 years, we will remain in doubt.



Philby

Meanwhile, these three investigators of the Philby story for the London Sunday Times have succeeded in creating a creditable if frightening portrait of a man who betrayed his country, his

class and his confederates.

Unlike his partners in Soviet espionage, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, Philby was neither a sexual misfit nor a psychotic. But he did share their secure position in the British Establishment.

Son of a famous Arabophile, St. John Philby, who was more devoted to his adopted country than his native land, Kim Philby was undoubtedly greatly influenced by his ungovernable and eccentric father.

He was educated at Winchester and Cambridge during the politically disturbing '30s. It was at Cambridge, where Maclean and Burgess also studied, that he was recruited by the Communists, in an era when many disillusioned young Establishment types were seeking new political answers to the social and economic ills of the day.

Vienna Days

Philby openly espoused Marxism in his Vienna days following Cambridge, but he soon renounced his open allegiance for the deceptive secret world of the undercover agent.

As a reporter for The Times he covered Franco's war in Spain, from the Fas-

cist camp, while many of his friends were fighting in the Republican Army. He was sympathetic to Fascism and joined his father and Sir Oswald Mosley in the Anglo-German Fellowship.

Philby was invited into British intelligence because he had the right education, the right friends and belonged to the right class. His former Communist activities, his Marxist wife, were dismissed as youthful follies. He rose rapidly in the service.

With appalling clarity the authors trace the development of the British SIS (Secret Intelligence Service) which was engaged in counter-espionage, and its more pedestrian rival, M15. They indict the whole British intelligence system which supported Philby in the face of incontrovertible evidence of his Communist loyalty.

Burgess and Maclean defected in May, 1951, probably warned of impending arrest by Philby who was then serving as liaison officer between the SIS and the CIA in Washington.

A cursory examination of his past would have led any investigator to suspect Philby as "the third man" in the gigantic conspiracy which

involved Burgess and Maclean. But he returned to London to face his accusers secure in the knowledge of Establishment protection. Harold Macmillan himself defended Philby in Parliament.

During his many years as a Soviet agent, in hot war and cold, Philby had been responsible for several intelligence coups, including the revelation of the innermost secrets of the CIA to his Soviet masters. In 1963, he went "home to Moscow" from Beirut.

Question of Cause

What impelled a man with Philby's advantageous background and training, the respect of his colleagues and superiors, and a position near the apex of a brilliant career, to betray his country?

The investigative team has done an engrossing study of the man but does not really answer this question — possibly because it is unanswerable.

The conclusion: A Philby is the price we pay for political freedom, and his betrayal of that freedom should teach us a valuable lesson about the fight for men's minds and loyalties.